



Protecting Communities and the Environment: Fuels Management Conference

Local Business Capacity Development

Issue Statement:

The Agencies have not met the Congressional expectation of enhancing local and small business employment opportunity for rural communities.

Recommendation:

Raise the level of awareness and understanding of how to do business / support fuels management and ecological restoration through contracting and other mechanisms.

Who – Task group appointed by agency heads / WFLC / Agency Business Centers

When: April 1, 2004.

What: Establish a chartered interagency working group to do the following:

1. Develop agency and public education on “rules and tools” of contracting
 - 1a. Develop outreach and in-reach strategies.
 - 1b. Update and clean up existing website link from NFP home page to Contracting Opportunities and related information. Create a link to GSA, PTAC, Fed Biz Opps.
 - 1c. Develop real time listing of contracting opportunities. Don’t rely on NFPORS as a source for this information.
 - 1d. Develop a clearing house and links to sites for information on biomass utilization.
 - 1e. Develop lessons learned website.
 - 1f. Consider creation of SWAT Teams for on the ground assistance and implementation (show and tell).

Recommendation: Bring the following group together to perform as a ID Team concept:
Resources / Fire / Fuels / Procurement / External Affairs / Education Mitigation

Who: Line Officers

When: ASAP

What: Establish better coordination among the disciplines involved in Fuels Management

Recommendation: Extend contracting periods and authorizations.

Who: Departments / Congress

When: To be determined

What: Establish consistency among agencies in the use of contracting opportunities and examine the potential for modifying Federal Acquisition Regulations to allow consistency.

1. Better utilize capabilities for long-term multi-year contracts. Increase the length of contracts to allow contractors to capitalize equipment.
2. Develop common grounds where possible for establishing consistency among agencies for contracting.
3. Standardize contracts for Healthy Forests Restoration Act and Stewardship Contracting.
4. Utilize partnerships RCD, NACD, Econ Dvlpmt, Financial Institutions (SBA, Banks, Insurance) Business, Chambers of Commerce, University Systems, Developing Subcontracting Strategies.